

Testimony in Support of HB-5455

Representative Gentile, Senator Cassano, members of the Planning and Development committee, thank you for allowing me to speak to you in favor of HB5455, an Act Concerning Penalties for, and the Investigation of, the Operation of Illegal Massage Establishments.

I am here to ask you to help our officials to improve Bridgeport by getting rid of illegal massage parlors. My husband was born and raised in Bridgeport and lived there when it was a booming city. After 40 years on Long Island, we are back here because the Black Rock section of Bridgeport is a great place to live and because our daughter and her family are here. The presence of so-called "massage parlors", which are actually sexually oriented businesses, has a huge negative impact on our City. These spas are a deterrent to business owners and families who might otherwise consider moving to our neighborhood.

It is very sad to see what has become of Bridgeport. Efforts are being made to revitalize the city. It certainly needs all the help it can get. I am urging you to help those of us who want to see a better Bridgeport to pass HB5455 so the Commissioner of Public Health will have the power to uphold the law and get rid of these sexually oriented massage parlors. Thank you.

Joan Lindquist
Bridgeport, CT